

NEW TERRORIST CHALLENGES IN THE SINAI PENINSULA – PROMINENT JIHADIST ORGANISATIONS

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After the 2011 Egyptian Revolution, public order effectively collapsed in the Sinai Peninsula. Many condemned Jihadist operatives have been freed from prisons. New terror-organisations were formed with the cooperation of escaped Jihadist operatives (e.g. Ansar al-Jihad in the Sinai Peninsula and Al-Qaeda in the Sinai Peninsula, Muhammad Jamal Network or Ajnad Misr). These groups are similar in that they are in a loose or close relationship with the al-Qaeda's global organisation, deny the Egyptian government's authority, which they consider corrupt, fight jihad for the establishment of an Islamic State and their targets are mainly personals of the Egyptian security forces as well as the Egyptian–Israeli gas-pipeline. Many of the inhabitants, who are living below the subsistence level and under discriminative measures, are receptive to their extreme ideology and they are about to establish their own Islamist emirate, propagating by the extremist. Currently, the Egyptian government sees the solution to build up closer cooperation with neighbouring Arab and African countries in the fight against terrorism. It is imperative for Cairo to solve the problem, because a long-continued conflict deters foreign investment and inhibits the restoration of the critical economic situation.

Keywords: *terrorist, salafi, jihad, Egypt, Sinai Peninsula, Israel, The Ansar al-Jihad, Al-Qaeda.*

Introduction

Near the Libyan border, 22 soldiers died in an armed clash between the Egyptian military border guards and smugglers on July 19, 2014. The smugglers' aim was to transport weapons to the Sinai Peninsula where public order effectively collapsed after the 2011 Egyptian Revolution. A security vacuum emerged in the region after the resignation of Hosni Mubarak that was transformed into an organised insurgency. Many condemned Jihadist operatives have been freed from prisons due to the disturbances and then fled to the peninsula. New terror-organisations were formed with their cooperation (e.g. Ansar al-Jihad in the Sinai Peninsula and Al-Qaeda in the Sinai Peninsula, Muhammad Jamal Network or Ajnad Misr). These groups are similar in that they are in a loose or close relationship with the al-Qaeda's global organisation, deny the Egyptian government's authority, which they consider corrupt, fight jihad for the establishment of an Islamic State and their targets of the near-daily attacks are mainly personals of the Egyptian

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security forces, as well as the Egyptian-Israeli oil and gas-pipeline.

The violence increased notable since President Muhammad Morsi was removed from power in July 2013. This unprecedented wave of violence poses a major threat to Egypt, because the terrorist attacks of these Sinai based armed groups became a common occurrence in the heartland of the country, particularly in Cairo. Moreover, this situation also affected the country's economy: according to several accounts, Egypt's foreign currency reserves have fallen by nearly 50 percent despite foreign aids during the last 42 months, the food and fuel reserves of the inhabitants became equivocal and the natural gas shortage is growing¹. The instability of the peninsula poses a serious danger to the wider region too. The Suez Canal and the Western interests in the area could be potential targets of these activists. Due to the attacks of the militants and the considerable effectiveness of the Egyptian army's campaign strained relations with Israel and the United States. This means that continued Salafi-jihadist activity could undermine the stability of the Egypt-Israeli peace treaty, which is the cornerstone of Middle East policy of the Western countries.

1. The Ansar al-Jihad in the Sinai Peninsula and the Al-Qaeda groups in the Sinai Peninsula

The Al-Qaeda in the Sinai Peninsula is one of the Salafist Jihadists groups, which has been formed recently. Its exact headquarters is unknown, but it is supposed to be somewhere in the Sinai Peninsula. Its size and composition is also the subject of debates, as well as its relations with internal al-Qaeda network. The Ansar al-Jihad, thought to be the organisation's military wing, has announced its formation on December 20, 2011. It has vowed to fulfil the oath of the killed Osama bin Laden and promised a determined fight against the 'corrupt regime'

¹ Eric TRAGER, "Sisi's Fearful Egypt", in *The Washington Institute Improving the Quality of U.S. Middle East Policy*, <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/sisi-fearful-egypt>, June 11, 2014.

and its 'henchmen' – the Jews, the Americans and those around them. It blamed Israel and the United States for the Egyptian people's suffering on the overthrown of President Hosni Mubarak and his government, as well as his allies.² The Ansar al-Jihad swore allegiance to al-Qaeda's leader, Ayman Zawahiri in January 2012.³

The organization is led by the Egyptian Ramzi Mahmoud al-Mowafi, who travelled to Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in the 1990s. He volunteered to al-Qaeda during this journey, made his best and eventually became bin Laden's personal doctor. Later, he set up an explosives laboratory in Tora Bora caves, where he controlled the terror-organisation's chemical-weapons production. That is why he became known as "the Chemist". Egyptian officials managed to arrest him and the court sentenced him for life-imprisonment. During the 2011 disturbances, he escaped from his maximum security prison on 30 January and he was seen in Sinai Peninsula in August same year. According to the Egyptian Intelligence reports, he made contacts with terrorists from Takfir wal-Hijra and Army of Islam.⁴ Moreover, according to witnesses, meantime he had been training about 40 volunteers with ages between 15 and 40. During the training, the operatives were guarded by vehicles which carried anti-aircraft missiles and by 15 armed men, equipped with automatic weapons and military binoculars.⁵

The terror-organisation claimed responsibility for attacking on Egyptian soil only once. The mentioned terror-act happened on July 29, 2011,

² Bill ROGGIO, "Ansar al Jihad in the Sinai Peninsula announces formation" in *The Long War Journal*, December 22, 2011.

³ In their statement, the terror organisation subordinated itself to Zawahiri's power and swore to continue the fight until the establishment of a state preferred by the Islam. See Bill ROGGIO, "Ansar al Jihad swears allegiance to al Qaeda's emir" in *The Long War Journal*, January 24, 2012.

⁴ Mohamed Fadel FAHMY, "Osama bin Laden's doctor resurfaces", *CNN*, August 17, 2011.

⁵ "Local sources say Bin Laden's doctor trains Sinai militants, while security official denies this" in *Al Arabiya News*, August 25, 2011; David BARNETT, "Former bin Laden doctor reportedly heads al Qaeda in the Sinai Peninsula" in *The Long War Journal*, July 17, 2013.

when unidentified people attacked a police station in el-Arish. The assault was followed by another overnight attack and gunmen shot the Sinai gas-pipeline with rocket-propelled grenades.⁶ The action, which was coupling with the Army of Islam, according to Egyptian officials, wanted to emphasize the rising announcement in el-Arish on the same day for establishing an Islamic emirate in the Sinai Peninsula.

In the wake of the attacks, the Al-Qaeda in the Sinai Peninsula issued its proclamation on pamphlets. Like the Army of Islam, the terror-organization called for creating an Islamic emirate based on Sharia. It also demanded the abolition of Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the intervention of the Egyptian military forces on behalf of the Hamas in Gaza Strip, as well as the cessation of government's discriminative policy against local Bedouins. The experts emphasize mainly the importance of the last point, which suggests that the terror-organisation wanted to enlarge the number of its supporters with local Bedouins, where some groups have been radicalized by al-Qaeda activists or at least have become sympathizers of al-Qaeda's objectives.⁷ The attack against the police station led them to conclude that the presence of al-Qaeda has emerged in the Peninsula. They have begun to establish training facilities and take control of certain towns, according to the American considerations.⁸ Later, the Ansar al-Jihad caused

damages to the pipeline several times, which was attacked 14 occasions between the end of January 2011 and the end of July 2012, according to own reports.⁹

2. The Muhammad Jamal Network

The Muhammad Jamal Network (MJN) particularly operates in the Northern part of Sinai Peninsula and it set up training camps in Egypt as well as in Libya. The organisation is a part of international al-Qaeda network and it is controlled by Muhammad Jamal Abd-Al Rahim Ahmad Al-Kashif (known by the *nom de guerre* Abu Ahmad al-Masri), who was described as "ultra-radical" by former Jihadists. He trained volunteers in Afghanistan how to make and use bombs in late 1980s. After his return to Egypt, he became the leader of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad's operational wing. He was jailed in 2002, but he was released, like his many fellows did, during the 2011 Egyptian Revolution and established his own network.¹⁰ Soon, he made close cooperation with al-Qaeda, due to his acquaintance to Ayman Zawahiri. Besides this, he established a single group, named Nasr City Cell, with his former comrade, Sheikh Adel Shehato. According to charges, the group plotted several attacks in Egypt.¹¹

6 About 100 masked gunmen arrived at the place with motorcycles and 4x4 all-terrain vehicles carrying flags with Islamic slogans, where they tried to storm the police station by surprise. The defenders made a stand against them with Egyptian Army's help and the aggressors were forced to retreat after several hour clashes. One policeman, one military officer, three civilians and one of the attackers were killed. The number of the casualties was more than 20. The attack against the disused pipeline caused no casualties. The Security Forces arrested 15 persons on the following day, who were suspected of taking part in the assault. Two thirds of the prisoners were Palestinian, which proved the network's wide relations and its popularity in the circle of peoples, who were living under poverty line. See Amro HASSAN, "EGYPT: Six dead in assault on Sinai police station" in *Los Angeles Times*, July 30, 2011.

7 Bruce RIEDEL, "Al Qaeda's New Sinai Front" in *The Daily Beast*, August 21, 2011.

8 Robin SIMCOX, "An Emerging Threat: al-Qaeda in the Sinai Peninsula" in *Henry Jackson Society*, August 30, 2011, available at <http://www.henryjacksonsociety.org/stories.asp?id=2395>, accessed on July 14, 2014.

9 The terror-organization claimed responsibility for surprise attacks occurred in three stages on Highway 12, near Eliat on August 18, 2011. The assassins were armed with suicide bomb vests, grenades, RPGs and machine guns. Eight Israeli citizens died and 40 injured in the series of attacks. The Israeli forces killed eight militants, the Egyptians liquidate another two, and one of the perpetrators blew up himself by his own device. During armed clashed Israelis also killed five Egyptian soldiers by accident, which triggered a serious diplomatic row between the two countries. Later the American intelligence agencies also linked Popular Resistance Committees and Army of Islam to the events. (Gabe FISHER, "Sinai terror group claims responsibility for gas pipeline blasts" in *The Times of Israel*, July 25, 2012; Eli LAKE, "Al Qaeda linked to Israeli bus ambush. U.S. investigates faction in Sinai" in *The Washington Times*, August 22, 2011.)

10 Mohamed Fadel FAHMY, Tim LISTER, Paul CRUICKSHANK, "Militants at large since Arab Spring complicate anti-terrorism efforts" in *CNN*, October 4, 2012.

11 Thomas JOSCELYN, "New photos of Nasr City cell members published" in *Threat Matrix*, February 20, 2014. (http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2014/02/new_photos_of_nasr_city_cell_m.php#) accessed on July 13, 2014.

The organisation was financed by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula due to Jamal's personal relations and it provided considerable help in smuggling volunteers into Muhammad Jamal Network's training camp. Previously, many prominent members of the Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (among them the group's emir, Nasir al-Wuhayshi) were trained in Jamal's camp according to the letters found on his confiscated computer after his re-arrest in 2012. Jamal reported that he established training camps in East-Libya and in the Sinai Peninsula, where he formed an armed group, too. Beyond these, he urged training suicide bombers and transporting heavy weapons, like mortars and missiles, as many as possible.¹² Ayman Zawahiri supported his imagination and gave his blessing to attack Egyptian and Libyan targets. According to reports, it seems that Jamal kept his promise to Zawahiri. Some of the attackers who took part in the September 11, 2012 bombing on United States diplomatic outposts in Benghazi, killing the ambassador and three other Americans, were trained at some Jamal's Libyan camp for the action based on intelligence reports.¹³ Later, Jamal confessed to his interrogators that he had trained the former military officer, Walid Badr, who tried to kill the Egyptian interior minister, Mohamed Ibrahim with a suicide car-bomb.¹⁴

When Jamal was rearrested in November 2012, his organisation did not disable, though it had lost its leader. Currently, the network is still operating and it has strong ties to al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula as part of the international al-Qaeda network.¹⁵ The U.S. State Department also drew

attention to several links with different European Jihadist groups.¹⁶

Beyond the global networks, it is seeking the opportunity for cooperation with the other Egyptian Jihadist cells, formed after 2011, to commit common terror-acts. According to Egyptian officials' suspicion, it is linked to those al-Qaeda plans, which were prepared against Western embassies and interests in Cairo in 2013.¹⁷ The United States named the Muhammad Jamal Network and its founder specially designated global terrorists on October 7, 2013. The UN Security Council Committee followed the example two weeks later.¹⁸

It is important to emphasize that the network has not claimed responsibility for any attacks in Egypt. It could be curious, because the network has procured a significant amount of arms in the Sinai Peninsula, according to Jamal-Zawahiri letters, quoted by officials.¹⁹

3. The Ajnad Misr

The Ajnad Misr (Egypt's Soldiers) is the most newly-formed Egyptian terror-organisation that was set up after the Islamist Mohamed Morsi's

sc11154.doc.htm) accessed on July 13, 2014.

16 Arshad MOHAMMED, "U.S. brands Egyptian Muhammad Jamal as 'global terrorist'", in *Reuters*, October 7, 2013.

17 According to Mohamed Ibrahim's announcement on May 11, 2013, the Egyptian officials arrested an al-Qaeda cell, which consisted of three members. The prisoners plotted to attack a Western embassy. He said that the Egyptian police found 10 kg of explosive material and instructions on how to build bombs and rockets during the custody. The interior minister also said the terrorists had previously taken direction from the Nasr City Cell. (Thomas JOSCELYN, "Egyptian interior minister: Al Qaeda cell plotted suicide attack against Western embassy", in *The Long War Journal*, May 11, 2013.)

18 Arshad MOHAMMED, "U.S. brands Egyptian Muhammad Jamal as 'global terrorist'", in *Reuters*, October 7, 2013. "Security Council Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Adds Two Entries to its Sanctions List", in *Department of Public Information News and Media Division New York*, October 21, 2013, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sc11154.doc.htm>, accessed on July 13, 2014.

19 Thomas JOSCELYN, "Al Qaeda's Expansion in Egypt: Implications for U.S. Homeland Security" in *Foundation for Defense of Democracies*, Washington D.C., February 11, 2014, <http://docs.house.gov/meetings/HM/HM05/20140211/101734/HHRG-113-HM05-Wstate-JoscelynT-20140211.pdf>, accessed on July 14, 2014.

12 Thomas JOSCELYN, "Communications with Ayman al Zawahiri highlighted in 'Nasr City cell' case" in *The Long War Journal*, February 10, 2013.

13 Siobhan GORMAN – Matt BRADLEY, "Militant Link to Libya Attack. U.S. Tracks Egyptian Operative Freed From Prison in Wake of Arab Spring" in *The Wall Street Journal*, October 1, 2012.

14 Later the Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis claimed responsibility for the action. (Zack GOLD, "Security in the Sinai: Present and Future" *ICCT Research Paper*, March 2014. p. 9, <http://www.icct.nl/download/file/ICCT-Gold-Security-In-The-Sinai-March-2014.pdf>, accessed on July 13, 2014.

15 "Security Council Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Adds Two Entries to its Sanctions List" in *Department of Public Information News and Media Division New York*, October 21, 2013. (<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/>

overthrown. It has issued its establishment in a statement on January 23, 2014. The terror-organisation said that it would fight against the “regime’s criminal organs”, which had humiliated the Egyptian people and prevented them from performing religious duties.²⁰ Later, it made clear for everyone in its declarations and acts that the term of “criminal organs” alluded mainly to security forces, which continued arrest-campaign against woman and girls. Also, they launched the attacks every Friday, killing and abusing innocent people without punishment according to the view of the terror-organisation.²¹ It promised mercy only for those ones, who defected and repented. The organisation said that it wanted to continue the fight until “justice prevails and a state accepted by God is established”.²² The more than a dozen attacks in Cairo and nearby show exactly its grim determination. The Ajnad Misr was listed as terrorist organisation by the Cairo Urgent Matters Court on May 22, 2014.

The group’s headquarter could not be precisely localized till now. Some localise it in the Sinai Peninsula, others look for it in the Egyptian hinterland. In April 2014, Mohamed Ibrahim, interior minister, described Ajnad Misr as an offshoot from Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis and stated that a prominent Muslim Brotherhood member, Osama Yassin was behind it. He said the group was composed mainly of Brotherhood-linked students from Students against the Coup movement.²³ The Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis could confirm this announcement, when references were made several times to Ajnad Misr as brothers.²⁴

20 “New militant Jihadi group formed in Egypt claims responsibility for attacks on police”, in *Associated Press*, February 1, 2014.

21 “New Egyptian militant group claims responsibility for Giza bombing”, in *Associated Press*, February 8, 2014; Staff Writer “Jihadist group Ajnad Misr claims Cairo bombings” in *Al Arabiya*, April 2, 2014.

22 “New Egyptian militant group claims responsibility for Giza bombing”, in *Associated Press*, February 8, 2014.

23 al-Masry AL-YOUM, “Interior Ministry: Soldiers of Egypt formed by MB leader”, in *Egypt Independent*, April 19, 2014.

24 David BARNETT, “Ajnad Misr claims 3 more attacks in Cairo area” in *Threat Matrix*, April 18, 2014, http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2014/04/ajnad_misr_claims_three_more_a.php#, accessed on July 15, 2014.

4. The “Retribution for Life” campaign

It seems Ajnad Misr had committed terror-acts, mainly against official people, even before its actual establishment, according to investigations and the statements of the group. The Egypt’s Soldiers made their first attack on November 20, 2013 when they hurled an explosive device on a police checkpoint in Cairo.²⁵

They committed no less than eight other attempts with primitive explosive bombs till April 2, 2014.²⁶ The common element in these actions was that they targeted mainly the infrastructure and vehicles of the Egyptian police (the Al-Azhar bombing was the sole exception on March 29, 2014), they used generally two bombs near their target, and surprisingly not a person was killed (altogether there were 12 injured persons). However, the April 2 bombing proved the radicalization as well as the improvement of methods and equipment of the Egypt’s Soldiers. On this occasion, they exploded three homemade bombs near the Faculty of Engineering belonging to Cairo University, which killed a police Brigadier General, and injured five of his inferiors.²⁷ This

25 Four police officers injured and a kiosk was destroyed in the attack. On the same day, a car bomb killed 11 soldiers and wounded 34 others in the Sinai Peninsula. See “Cairo bomb attack wounds 4 police security” in *AFP*, November 20, 2013.

26 A roadside bomb, which was planted in a bush, injured two police officers on November 25. An ambush, executed by grenade and gunfire, hurt another official on January 7, 2014. Two explosives, planted on a main highway, wounded another officer on January 31, 2014. Six police officers wounded in a bomb attack near a checkpoint in Giza on February 07, 2014. No one hurt in the attack against Talbiya police station in Cairo on January 24, in the case of police car that was damaged on a bridge on February 07, in the bombing nearby the Israeli embassy on March 11 as well as in the explosion that happened near the fence of Al-Azhar University on March 29. (“Blast at Cairo checkpoint wounds two police” in *AFP*, November 25, 2013; “Bomb thrown in drive-by attack on Cairo police” in *Reuters*, January 7, 2014; “New militant Jihadi group formed in Egypt, claims responsibility for attacks on police” in *Associated Press*, February 1, 2014; “New Egyptian militant group claims responsibility for Giza bombing” in *Associated Press*, February 8, 2014; “Bomb explodes near Israeli embassy in Cairo, no one hurt” in *Reuters*, March 11, 2014; “Bomb explodes close to Al-Azhar” in *Mada Masr*, March 29, 2014.)

27 Two of the explosive devices exploded in quick succession and killed immediately Brigadier General Tarek al-Mergawi, chief of police in Giza province. The third,

assassination proved for everyone that the high-ranking leaders of the security forces could not feel safe. The perpetrators' aim was knowingly to kill them, not only hurt. Later, they contented with injuring the senior ranking targets and in the first half of April they activated only one-one primitive bombs in the two other attempts.²⁸ We have to underline the fact that we can consider the April 15 bombing as a turning-point, because here was a civil casualty along with two police employees, although Ajnad Misr emphasized several times in its statements that it wanted to avoid hurting civilian people.²⁹

On April 17, Ajnad Misr released its first video message. It was dedicated to the mothers who have been killed, injured or detained by the security forces. In the about 23 minute-long film, they condemned again the government's policy which they kept calling anti-Islamic and they claimed responsibility for eight previous actions.³⁰

much smaller detonation occurred less than two later, when police and journalists gathered at the scene. Among the casualties was Major General Abdel-Raouf El-Sirafy, deputy of the killed al-Mergawi. (Staff Writer „Jihadist group Ajnad Misr claims Cairo bombings” in *Al Arabiya*, April 2, 2014.)

28 The April 10 attack, carried out by a primitive bomb placed under the car, injured a captain of the traffic police only in his leg. (“Bomb Wounds Egyptian Policeman in Cairo Suburb” in *Ma'an News Agency*, April 11, 2014.)

29 According to the terror-organisation, it has aborted many operations, because it did not intend to harm any innocent passerby by flying splitters in the blast. However, it is not clear why they bombed one of the crowded crossroads of the al-Galaa Square on April 15, 2014. (“Bomb Attack in Cairo Wounds 2 Police, Civilian” in *Ma'an News Agency*, April 7, 2014; David BARNETT, “Ajnad Misr claims 3 more attacks in Cairo area” in *Threat Matrix*, April 18, 2014 – http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2014/04/ajnad_misr_claims_three_more_a.php#, accessed on July 15, 2014.; Staff Writer “Jihadist group Ajnad Misr claims Cairo bombings” in *Al Arabiya*, April 2, 2014.)

30 In the first half of the video, members of the security forces could be seen attacking protesters and assaulting detainees. The second half of the video shows the aftermaths of Ajnad Misr actions. The video closes with a message saying to take revenge for the female captives and threaten those who hurt them. (David BARNETT, “Ajnad Misr releases first video of attacks” in *Threat Matrix*, April 17, 2014, http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2014/04/ajnad_misr_releases_first_vide.php#, accessed on July 15, 2014.)

The following day, at around 10 p.m., they exploded another bomb in the illustrious MohandessindistrictandkilledMajorMohammed Gamal Eddin as well as injured a high-ranking officer and two other people.³¹ Five days later, another attempt occurred and a Brigadier General died, and two conscript policemen were injured.³² On June 27, Ajnad Misr announced that it had planted earlier several bombs around the presidential palace. It urged passersby to be careful toward avoiding civil casualties. Three days later, two low ranking police officers died and ten others were injured in the blast outside the Ittihadiya palace, President Abdel-Fattal el-Sissi's residence. The attack was a useful example again and proved that the most secure locations could not give safe shelter against bombs, which were meanwhile perfected by the terrorists.³³

Conclusion

After the 2011 Egyptian Revolution, several new Jihadist organisations have been formed. They are in a loose or close relationship with the

31 The explosive device detonated around 10. p.m. Cairo times next to a traffic post in busy Lebanon Square. The reports of the witnesses were antinomic in connection with planting of the bomb. According to someone, it was hid inside the traffic post earlier. Others said that the bomb was hurled from a bridge over the traffic post by unidentified perpetrators. See David BARNETT, “Ajnad Misr claims 3 more attacks in Cairo area” in *Threat Matrix*, April 18, 2014, http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2014/04/ajnad_misr_claims_three_more_a.php#, accessed on July 15, 2014; Maggie MICHAEL, “Blast in busy Cairo square kills 1 police officer” in *Associated Press*, April 18, 2014.

32 Brigadier General Ahmed Zaki was torn asunder by the bomb that was placed under his car outside his home. This action confirmed the statement of Ajnad Misr according that their attacks could not be considered as randomize raids. They planned their operation accurately and sized up correctly the daily routine and route as well as the attendants of their targets. See Tom PERRY, “Two policemen, militant killed in Egypt”, *Reuters*, April 23, 2014.

33 Allegedly the experts of the Ajnad Misr studied for months how the police defuse the bombs. By experiences, it seems that they could construct such a new explosive devices, which cannot be detected by ordinary equipment. The case of two dead policemen is the evidence, which were killing during the bomb-disposal. See Maggie FICK, “Two police officers killed in bomb blasts near Cairo palace”, *Reuters*, June 30, 2014.; Sayed REHAB, “Ajnad Misr claims palace blasts that killed two”, *Z News*, July 02, 2014.

al-Qaeda's global organisation. Their positions and operations are facilitated by the fact that a potential danger zone developed in the Sinai Peninsula during the last years. Many of the inhabitants, who live below the subsistence level and under discriminative measures, are receptive to their extreme ideology and they are about to establish their own Islamist emirate, propagating by the extremist. The situation is very serious because public order collapsed after 2011 Egyptian Revolution and the weapon-reinforcement coming continuously from Libya.

The terror-organisations improve the opportunity to weaken the Egyptian government's authority and they led dozens attacks against the security forces during the last years. Now the Egyptian government, which measures were criticized several times by political figures, sees the solution to build up closer cooperation with neighbouring Arab and African countries in the fight against terrorism. Fortunately the terror-organisations receive marginal support in urban, densely populated areas.

We consider that the Ajnad Misr is the most dangerous terrorist group from the above mentioned ones. There is no information about the leadership and the size of the organisation. Now it is operating in Egypt's hinterland, mainly in the capital. Like the Ansar al-Jihad and the al-Qaeda groups, the most common type of its attacks is bombing against security person.

However, there is an essential difference between these organisations, that Ansar al-Jihad operating particularly in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula and targeting mainly economical interests, like pipelines.

We think that the least perilous organisation is the Muhammad Jamal Network. We don't know any kind of attack attributed to this group. Moreover, the structure of the terror-organisation weakened after Muhammad Jamal was re-arrested in November 2012. At the same time, we would like to emphasize that this group is active nowadays and gives considerable help for foreign militants in the training camps. In this case, the solution of the problem could be exploring and destroying these bases not only

in Egypt, but in Libya and the Gaza Strip for a short period as well. Of course, this aim needs wider international collaboration in the area with Western moral, political and material support.

Moreover, it is imperative for Cairo to solve the problem, because a long-continued conflict deters foreign investment. The tourism, which is one of the main revenue of the country, abated also due to "anti-coup" demonstrations, bombings and Jihadist insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula. The avails are sorely needed for the restoration of critical economic situation.

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